

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

**COUNTRY** Korea

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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**SUBJECT** USSR Interest in North Korean Monazite

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1. YI Ku-hun (李龜勳), Chief of the Agriculture and Forestry Department, Korean Labor Party headquarters, Pyongyang, [REDACTED] in August 1950, that a very precious metal was being mined in North Korea and that many tons a month had been, and were being, sent to the Soviet Union. He subsequently elaborated upon this statement as follows: 25X1X
- a. About 80% of the world's monazite is mined in an area about 24 kilometers northwest from Haeju. The ore from this mine has paid for the arms North Korea has obtained from the Soviet Union. North Korean officials believe that the value of the ore already sent to the Soviet Union, comprising about eight months' production, has substantially exceeded the value of the arms received.
  - b. Another monazite mine is being developed in South Hamyang province.
  - c. Monazite mining activities are shrouded in deep secrecy, and the miners have no idea of the real value of the mineral they are mining.
2. At about the same time, in the Yohang Mountain area in South Kyongsang province, the commander of the North Korean 6 Division, which had been trained and organized by Chinese Communists in Manchuria, [REDACTED] that the Chinese Communists would soon enter the war because the Soviet Union could not afford to lose a monazite mine in North Korea which was essential to the Soviet atomic energy program. 25X1X

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